

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are currently pending in the subject application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. By the instant amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 9 are amended and claim 4 is canceled. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 4 during a telephone conversation on April 24, 2006.

Applicants request, in the next Office action, that the Examiner indicate the acceptability of the drawings filed on December 24, 2003.

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-3, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; rejected claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,942,340 to Hu et al. ("the Hu et al. reference"); and objected to claim 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, while indicating that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

B. Asserted Indefiniteness Rejection

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner asserted that claims 2, 3 and 8 lack antecedent basis for the recitation of "the main

chain of the polymer," and asserted that claims 5 and 9 are indefinite because, when n=0.1 to 0.99, n-1 is negative. *Office action of April 12, 2006, at paragraph no. 5, page 2.*

By the instant amendment, claims 2, 3 and 8 have been amended to eliminate the recitation of "the main chain of the polymer," and claims 5 and 9 have been amended to change "n-1" to read "1-n." Applicants note that, in claims 5 and 9, the formula to be replaced (which recites n-1) is surrounded by square brackets ([]), while the amended formula (which recites 1-n) is underlined. In view of the above, applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

C. Asserted Anticipation Rejection

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Hu et al. reference. By the instant amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, which the Examiner has indicated recites allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 is moot. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as claims 2, 3 and 5-9 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

D. Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 12, 2006


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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.